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Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

International guidelines on urban and territorial planning: towards a compendium of inspiring practices

Note by the secretariat

1. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has provided support for the elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning through an ad hoc expert group that was established to provide advice on the structure, content and wording of the proposed guidelines. The expert group has met three times since the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council, held in April 2013, in order to carefully review the draft guidelines and the set of illustrative case studies. This consultative and inclusive process, which has also benefited from the input of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, has culminated in a draft version of the guidelines, which has been submitted to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-fifth session (HSP/GC/25/2/Add.6).

2. A compendium is being developed to support and illustrate the guidelines and in this connection, in addition to the draft guidelines, a document entitled *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning: Towards a Compendium of Inspiring Practices* is before the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-fifth session. The document provides an overview of 26 international case studies in urban and territorial planning developed by the expert group and its associated networks. It showcases a cross section of inventive, ambitious and unique cases that address common issues related to urban and territorial development and highlights successful examples of ways in which urban and territorial planning can help countries and regions to achieve development that is more sustainable.

3. The case studies also demonstrate the importance of the key planning principles promoted in the draft guidelines. Each local example embodies the four main pillars of urban and territorial planning, using progressive policies and governance approaches, integrating spatial strategies with wider development goals and delivering coordinated implementation in order to positively influence the economic, social and environmental dimensions of cities and regions.

4. The document is divided into four sections: the first covers the elements of context, scope, methodology and structure of the document; the second summarizes the key lessons learned from the case studies and suggests a way forward; the third sets out a sample of 26 summarized case studies ordered alphabetically by country; while the fourth section contains a set of annexes detailing reference and supporting documents.

5. The document is available from: www.unhabitat.org/gc25documents.

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